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LETTER DATED 2 OCTOBER 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BURUNDI TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of the members of the Security Council, my letter dated 2 October 1997 transmitting to the Secretary-General of the United Nations a request by the Government of Burundi for United Nations assistance in solving the problem of Burundian refugees in general, and, in particular, the problem of Burundian refugees in the United Republic of Tanzania.

I should be grateful if you would arrange for these documents to be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Gamaliel NDARUZANIYE
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex I

Letter dated 2 October 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Burundi to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to write to you to express once again the gratitude of the Government of the Republic of Burundi for the activities which the United Nations is carrying out in Burundi.

Beset by a crisis that soon will have lasted four years, Burundi has been engaged for more than a year in a peace process that emphasizes dialogue as a means of achieving a peaceful, negotiated political settlement between all interested parties.

Prompted by this concern, the Government of Burundi has instructed me to transmit to you a note verbale dated 30 September 1997 and the Government's request for United Nations assistance in solving the problem of Burundian refugees in general and the problem of Burundian refugees in the United Republic of Tanzania in particular.

Concerted action by the States concerned and the United Nations bodies with responsibility for this question would be a contribution to the peace process in Burundi and would increase the chances for lasting peace in the region.

In order to have these documents circulated to the members of the Security Council, I have addressed the same request to the President of the Security Council.

(Signed) Gamaliel NDARUZANIYE
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex II

Note Verbale dated 30 September 1997 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Burundi addressed to the Secretary-General

In keeping with its position of strict respect for the conventions relating to refugees, the Government of Burundi expresses its concern at the conduct of Burundian refugees living in the United Republic of Tanzania. These refugees are the main source of insecurity for Burundi.

Indeed, these refugees, who are concentrated along the frontier of the United Republic of Tanzania, are carrying out deadly incursions into the territory of Burundi.

The Government of Burundi would appreciate it if the United Nations would take steps to induce the authorities of the United Republic of Tanzania to:

Accept the reactivation of the technical working group established pursuant to the tripartite agreement between Burundi, the United Republic of Tanzania and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees with the aim of promoting the repatriation of the refugees;

Move those refugees who do not wish to return to a reasonable distance of at least 150 km from the frontier;

Disarm the Burundian refugees and prohibit them from engaging in political activity of any kind in the territory of the United Republic of Tanzania;

The deployment of a group of neutral observers to verify the incursions by these attackers originating in the United Republic of Tanzania and monitor the common frontier would be of great benefit.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation welcomes in advance the careful attention that will be given to this request and encloses herewith information in support of the request.

Appendix

Request of the Government of the Republic of Burundi addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations for assistance in solving the problem of Burundian refugees in the United Republic of Tanzania

In making this request, the Government of the Republic of Burundi would like to describe briefly the problems of Burundian refugees in the United Republic of Tanzania and to demonstrate not only the serious consequences thereof for the state of relations between Burundi and the United Republic of Tanzania, but also the threat which they represent to peace and security in Burundi and throughout the Great Lakes subregion.

While traditionally the bilateral relations between Burundi and the United Republic of Tanzania have always been regarded as excellent, they have nevertheless suffered from time to time from the repercussions arising from the behaviour of some of the refugees, often with the encouragement of certain circles in the host country.

This negative attitude, which was at the outset deemed to be marginal, has become more pronounced, especially following the events of October 1993 in Burundi.

Faced with the acts of military aggression and the subversive activities directed against Burundi by the Conseil national de défense de la démocratie (CNDD) and its allies from the refugee camps in the United Republic of Tanzania, the Government of Burundi has deemed it necessary to launch an urgent appeal to the international community for assistance in finding a rapid solution to this question.

I. THE PRESENCE OF BURUNDIAN REFUGEES IN THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA: SOURCE OF A THREAT TO PEACE AND SECURITY IN BURUNDI AND THE SUBREGION

The first deadly attacks perpetrated by the refugees against Burundi date back to 1972. They were organized and carried out from the United Republic of Tanzania by refugees who had been settled in the region of Kigoma since 1965, in some cases, and 1969, in others.

It was following these bloody events of 1972 that the greatest number of departures of refugees to the United Republic of Tanzania was noted. The refugees were received and settled in the camps at Ulyankulu, Mishamo and Katumba and in the region of Kigoma.

The distance of these camps from the common frontier helped to bring about the period of calm and détente observed for some years in the bilateral relations between the States.

This period of stability enabled the Government of Burundi to carry out the policy of promoting the voluntary repatriation of the refugees which it had constantly advocated. In the case of the United Republic of Tanzania, a considerable movement was indeed noted in the voluntary return of refugees as a result of this policy. The work was carried out with the assistance of the technical working group established on 27 August 1991 pursuant to the tripartite agreement signed between Burundi, the United Republic of Tanzania and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

This mass return movement was halted by the unfortunate events that are at the root of the current crisis which Burundi has been experiencing since October 1993. The crisis led to the departure of other refugees to the United Republic of Tanzania; this time, instead of being settled like the earlier refugees in accordance with accepted international standards, the refugees were placed in camps situated at distances of between 15 and 40 kilometres from the common frontier along the Kigoma-Bukoba road.

These camps were as follows:

Ntabila: 44,040 people, 40 km. from the frontier
Muyovozi: 27,750 people, 40 km. from the frontier
Nkungwa: 1,171 people, 15 km. from the frontier
Ntendeli: 28,913 people, 20 km. from the frontier
Kanembwa: 15,531 people, 40 km. from the frontier
Lukole: 88,195 people, 20 km. from the frontier

Source: UNHCR census, 19 to 26 July 1997. See map (attachment 1).

The concentration of these camps close to the frontier with Burundi represents a serious threat to the peace and security of Burundi and of the subregion for the following reasons:

(a) The proximity of the camps to the frontier with Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda;

(b) Ease of contacts between the camps;

(c) Ease of mobility by Lake Tanganyika;

(d) The presence of many Burundian perpetrators of genocide and common criminals in the camps;

(e) The presence of members of armed factions of the Front pour la défense de la démocratie (FDD) expelled from the former Zaire, and of the Front de la libération nationale (FROLINA) and the Parti pour la libération du peuple hutu (PALIPEHUTU);

(f) The presence of members of the former Rwandan armed forces and of the Interahamwe militia;

(g) Acts of intimidation against bona fide refugees;

(h) The coalition of these criminals in murderous attacks against Burundi and their withdrawal to Tanzanian territory (see attachment 2).

This disturbing situation is of concern not only to the United Republic of Tanzania and the countries of the subregion, but also to UNHCR and the other humanitarian organizations which are assisting and organizing these camps.

Despite the difficulties mentioned above, Burundi can now congratulate itself on having received several of its nationals who have voluntarily returned to their mother country from neighbouring countries, including the United Republic of Tanzania. Approximately 160,000 refugees returned to Burundi spontaneously and voluntarily between October 1996 and September 1997 (see attachment 3).

Greater cooperation by the host countries and the competent agencies could easily help to find lasting solutions to the problem of refugees and could thus contribute to the restoration of peace and security throughout the subregion.

Such an approach would be one which would help Burundi and the United Republic of Tanzania to remedy this disturbing situation and renew the excellent relations which have always been a feature between the two countries. The Government of Burundi accordingly appeals to the international community to give its assistance.

II. REQUEST OF THE GOVERNMENT OF BURUNDI

Faithful to the commitments which it entered into at the time of the political changeover on 25 July 1996, the Government of Burundi would like to reaffirm its determination to work towards the unity and reconciliation of all Burundians without exception. The return of the refugees to their country is an essential element of this process.

It is in this spirit that it wishes to reaffirm that it will continue to promote voluntary repatriation by creating an environment favourable to peace both within and outside the country.

To this end, the Government of Burundi would like to make a formal request to the Secretary-General of the United Nations to persuade the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania to cooperate positively and comply with the following request:

1. Respect and comply with the obligations laid down in international conventions concerning refugees (the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, adopted at Geneva on 28 July 1951, and the Convention of the Organization of African Unity on questions relating to the problems of refugees in Africa, adopted at Addis Ababa on 10 September 1969).

2. Reactivate the technical working group established pursuant to the tripartite agreement between Burundi, the United Republic of Tanzania and UNHCR with a view to promoting voluntary repatriation in particular.

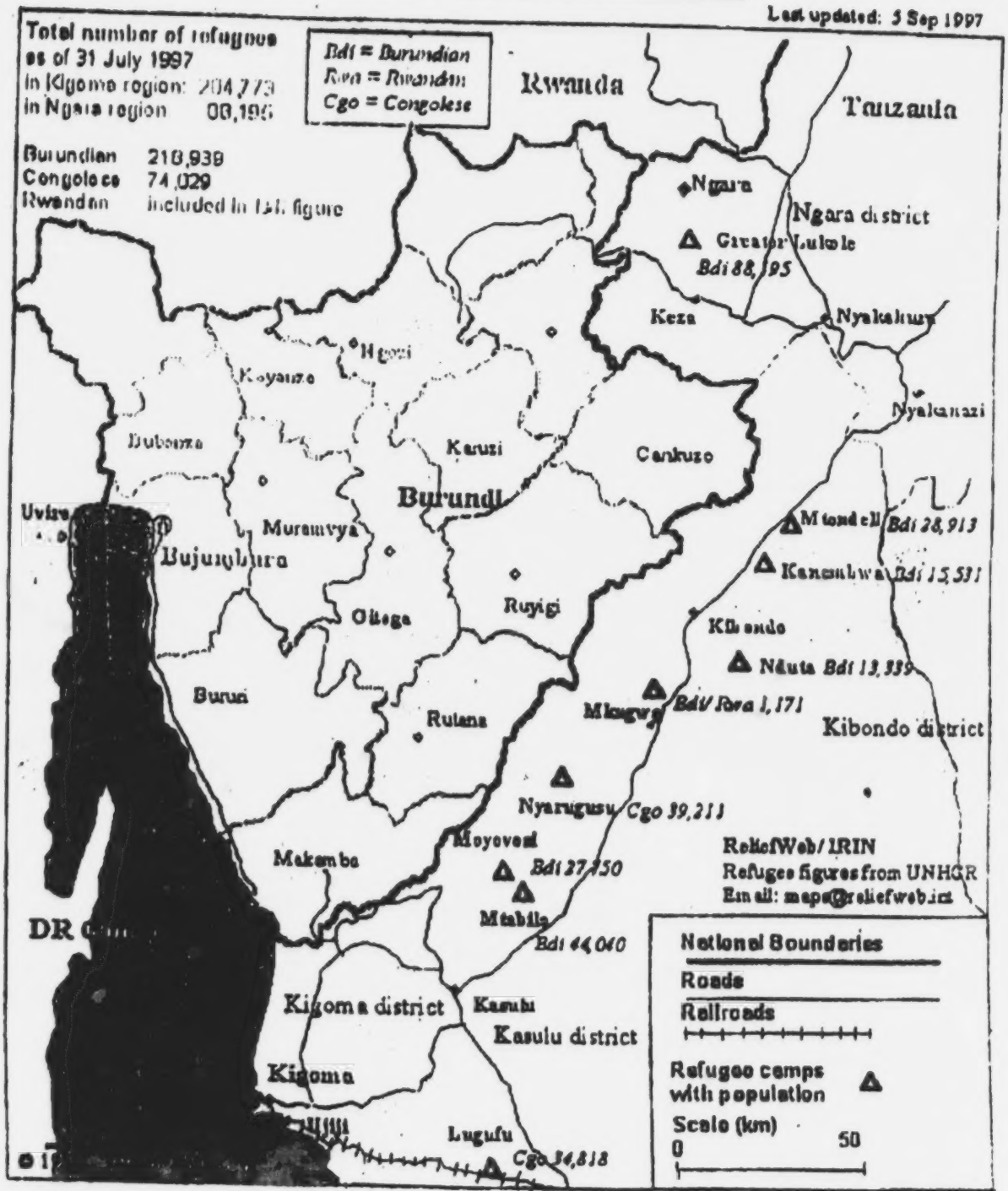
3. Move those refugees who do not wish to return to their country to a reasonable distance of at least 150 km from the frontier.

4. Disarm the Burundian refugees and prohibit them from engaging in political activities in the territory of the United Republic of Tanzania and in any other country of asylum.

5. Deploy a group of neutral observers to verify incursions originating in the United Republic of Tanzania and to monitor the common frontier.

Attachment 1

Refugees in the United Republic of Tanzania



The boundaries and names shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations or ReliefWeb. These maps may be freely distributed. If more current information is available, please update the maps and return them to ReliefWeb for posting.

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Attachment 2

Information concerning deadly attacks on Burundi and withdrawal to Tanzanian territory

Date	Place	Damage caused
25 November 1994	Rumandari (Giteranyi)	Two people seriously injured by mines laid by genocidal terrorists
8 December 1994	Buruhukiro (Rumonge)	Members of PALIPEHUTU massacre 4 people
26 January 1995	Gasorwe (Muyinga)	Assassination of the Governor of Muyinga by one Saidi from Tanzania
Night of 7 February 1995	Buruhukiro (Rumonge)	Eleven people massacred
14 February 1995	Giteranyi (Muyinga)	Nine people killed by genocidal terrorists on Shoza, Mugano, Karugunda and Gazenyi hills
7 July 1995	Giteranyi (Muyinga)	Population of Rusagara hill hacked to death. Many people killed and many houses set on fire.
27 July 1995	Kayongozi (Ruyigi)	Attack on Mibanga hill; 6 people killed
Night of 27/28 August 1995	Baziro (Gitobe)	Four dead, including chief of sector
11 October 1995	Butihinda (Muyinga)	Attack on Cagizo market, Kamaramagambo area; 48 people killed
29 October 1995	Mugisenga village	FROLINA elements attack, setting fire to some 20 houses; 5 people killed, another 500 flee towards Tanzania. Tanzanian security forces refuse them entry into the country. The rest of the population flocks to the interior of Lake Nyanza commune

Date	Place	Damage caused
2 December 1995	Kigabwe (Mabanda)	Attack by FROLINA terrorists on the population at Ngabwe; 11 people killed, 26 houses burned.
11 December 1996	Rimbo (Lake Nyanza)	Five people killed by genocidal terrorists
15 December 1996	Muyange market (Lake Nyanza)	Five people stabbed by genocidal terrorists
17 December 1996	Mugumure (Lake Nyanza)	Seven people slightly wounded
28 March 1997	Kigutu (Vyanda)	Attack on innocent population: 21 houses set on fire, 10 looted, 4 people seriously wounded
14 April 1997	Gihoro-Gikoni (Giteranyi)	Attack on repatriated persons; 3 people killed
15 April 1997	Bugabira	Two attacks on displaced persons; 3 people killed
16 April 1997	Mubondoko Kayogoro (Makamba)	More than 70 people killed. The assailants, who come from the United Republic of Tanzania, withdraw there passing through Mugina.
19 April 1997	Migano (Rumonge)	Six people hacked to death
21 April 1997	Mugomera (Rumonge)	Eight people killed
21 April 1997	Q. Swahili (Lake Nyanza)	Thirteen civilians hacked to death
29 April 1997	Kiremba-Buta (Bururi)	Forty-three students killed at the little seminary in Buta.
23 May 1997	Lake Nyanza	Twenty people killed
25 May 1997	Kigunga (Burambi)	Assassination of the chief of sector
10 June 1997	Binaganyi (Lake Nyanza)	Attack on centre for displaced persons: 10 killed and several wounded

Date	Place	Damage caused
20 July 97	Kigwena (Rumonge)	Two people killed and some 40 kidnapped

Note: All these attacks were organized and committed by criminals who were trained and who entered Burundi via the United Republic of Tanzania.

The deadliest attacks, and the most disturbing in terms of the number of assailants involved (between 3,000 and 4,000 - the Tanzanian authorities acknowledges 800), occurred between April and May 1997.

Attachment 3

Repatriation organized by UNHCR between October 1996 and September 1997

Series period	From			Comment
	United Republic of Tanzania	Democratic Republic of the Congo	Rwanda	
1. 30 October 96 to 10 Sept. 97		± 40,000		Including 373-377 repatriated by air from Bukavu and Kisangani (via Kigali, then by road)
2. January to August 1997	± 40,000 from Kigoma		3 964	
	± 25,000 from Ngara			
3. Sept. 1997			1 903	From Musange (Butare and Kigeme) (Gikongoro)
Subtotal	± 65,000	± 40,000	5 867	
TOTAL	110 867			

Note: On average 30 people a day are being repatriated from Kigoma compared to 200 prior to the closing by the United Republic of Tanzania of its border. These numbers reflect repatriations organized by UNHCR. The number of people going back on their own is also considerable.